

Message Text

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S/S-S: RPERSIKO (7613694,

S/S: MR. ORTIZ

7617619)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 208366

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, US, NI

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE TO THE
PRESIDENT FROM NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE LT. GENERAL
OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

1. BEGIN FYI: DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FOLLOWING BICENTENNIAL
MESSAGE FROM NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE THROUGH NIGERIAN EMBAS-
SY UNDER COVER OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE AUGUST 6:

QUOTE: MY DEAR PRESIDENT,

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, I SHOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO
YOU, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES ON THE
OCCASION OF THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPEN-
DENCE OF YOUR GREAT COUNTRY.

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SINCE THE BIRTH OF THEIR NATION, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED

STATES HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN ENDEAVOUR WHICH GREATLY INFLUENCED THE COURSE OF HISTORY. THE NOBLE IDEALS ESPOUSED BY YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS FOUNDING FATHERS TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO;

-- THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL; AND

-- THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS AMONG WHICH ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS,

INSPIRED MAN EVERYWHERE IN HIS INSTINCTIVE QUEST FOR FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, HUMAN DIGNITY AND A JUST GOVERNMENT.

WE IN NIGERIA ARE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE GOODWILL WHICH HAS ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AND AS WE JOIN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN COMMEMORATING THIS HAPPY OCCASION, I LIKE TO EXPRESS THE HOPE AND CONVICTION THAT THE UNITED STATES AND NIGERIA WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE YEARS AHEAD FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLES AND IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE, PROGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND ESTEEM.

YOURS MOST SINCERELY,

O. OBASANJO
(LT.-GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO)
HEAD OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE HEAD OF STATE:

QUOTE DEAR GENERAL OBASANJO:
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ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, MRS. FORD AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR MOST WELCOME MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE.

AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY, THE UNITED STATES REDEDICATES ITSELF IN WORD AND DEED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY.

I AGREE THAT MUCH GOODWILL HAS ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN THE
PEOPLE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND I SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO
WORK TOGETHER IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. UNQUOTE.

3. THE WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT INTEND TO RELEASE THE ABOVE
RESPONSE, BUT HAS NO OBJECTION IF THE FEDERAL MILITARY
GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA WISHES TO DO SO.

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